

CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing property management services,
5 comprising:

generating call parameter information;
generating call cost information as a function of the call
parameter information; and

10 generating charge information for an account as a function
of the call cost information;

wherein one or more of the generating steps is performed
in a client network, and

15 wherein one or more of the generating steps is performed
in a service provider network.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
information generated in the client network in the one or more
of the generating steps performed in the client network is
20 transmitted to the service provider network.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
information generated in the service provider network in the one
or more of the generating steps performed in the service
25 provider network is transmitted to the client network.

4. An internetwork for providing property management
services, comprising:

30 a client network; and

a service provider network, characterized in that the
client network transmits to the service provider network a call
parameter for a completed call, further characterized in that
the service provider network determines call cost information
35 for the completed call based on the call parameter and transmits

the call cost information back to the client network to charge the cost to an account.

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5. The internetwork of claim 4, characterized in that the call parameter is transmitted over at least part of the client network on a serial link.

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6. The internetwork of claim 4, characterized in that the call parameter is transmitted over at least part of the service provider network on a serial link.

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7. The internetwork of claim 4, characterized in that the call parameter is transmitted between the client network and the service provider network over a wide area network.

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8. The internetwork of claim 7, wherein the wide area network is a public internet.

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9. The internetwork of claim 4, characterized in that the call cost information is transmitted over at least part of the client provider network on a serial link.

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10. The internetwork of claim 4, characterized in that the call cost information is transmitted over at least part of the service provider network on a serial link.

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11. The internetwork of claim 4, characterized in that the call cost information is transmitted between the client network and the service provider network over a wide area network.

12. The internetwork of claim 11, wherein the wide area network is a public internet.

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10 13. An internetwork for providing property management services comprising a plurality of client networks coupled to a service provider network over a wide area network, characterized in that ones of the client networks include ones of private branch exchanges, respectively, coupled to first ones of protocol converters, respectively, for exchanging data with the service provider network, and further characterized in that the service provider network includes a call accounting system and a second protocol converter for exchanging data with ones 15 of the client networks.

20 14. The internetwork of claim 13, wherein the private branch exchanges generate call parameters for completed calls for transmitting to the service provider network.

25 15. The internetwork of claim 13, wherein the call accounting system receives the call parameters and generates call cost information based on the call parameters for transmitting to the respective client networks.

16. An internetwork for providing property management services comprising:

30 a client network comprising:

a call management unit for generating call parameter data for a completed call; and

a client system for receiving call cost information and charging the cost to an account;

35 a service provider network comprising:

5 a call accounting system for receiving the call parameter data and generating call cost information for the completed call based on the call parameter data; and

a server system coupled to the call accounting system for storing the call cost information and transmitting the call cost information to the client system; and

10 a wide area network electronically linking the client network to the service provider network for allowing communication between the client network and the service provider network.

15 17. The internetwork of claim 16, wherein the call management unit is a private branch exchange unit.

20 18. The internetwork of claim 16, wherein the wide area network is a public internet.

25 19. The internetwork of claim 16, wherein the server system transmits property management commands to the client network.

20 20. The internetwork of claim 16 further comprising a protocol converter coupled to the call management unit for converting between a first transmission format and a second transmission format.

30 21. The internetwork of claim 16 further comprising a protocol converter coupled to the call accounting system for converting between a first transmission format and a second transmission format.

22. In a system including a client network coupled to a service provider network over a wide area network, a method for providing property management services comprising the steps of:

5 generating at the client network a call parameter for a completed call;

transmitting to the service provider network the call parameter;

10 determining at the service provider network call cost information for the completed call based on the call parameter; and

15 transmitting the call cost information back to the client network to charge the cost to an account.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the call parameter comprises the step of transmitting the call parameter over at least part of the client 20 network on a serial link.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the call parameter comprises the step of transmitting the call parameter over at least part of the 25 service provider network on a serial link.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the call cost information comprises the step of transmitting the call cost information over at least part of the 30 client network on a serial link.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the call cost information comprises the step of 35

transmitting the call cost information over at least part of the service provider network on a serial link.

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27. The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of transmitting a property management command to the client network.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein the property management command includes a command to activate the account.

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29. The method of claim 27, wherein the property management command includes a command to de-activate the account.

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